

November 17, 1940

THE SPIRIT



OUT OF WILDWOOD CEMETERY COMES THE FAMOUS CRIME FIGHTER KNOWN TO THE WORLD ONLY AS **THE SPIRIT**.... ALONE, HE AIDS THE WEAK AND BATTLES THE EVIL, ASSISTED ONLY BY HIS FAITHFUL SERVANT, EBONY....

BY **WILL EISNER**

ONE BY ONE, THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FALL UNDER THE PLAGUE OF DICTATORSHIP...AND LATEST OF THESE IS SLAVIA, TINY MOUNTAIN STATE. ON BOARD THE REFUGEE SHIP **ACROR** ENTERING NEW YORK HARBOR, IS DR. PRINCE VON KALM, DEPOSED PRESIDENT OF ONCE-FREE SLAVIA.....

THE BOAT DOCKS, AND THREADING HIS WAY THROUGH THE THRONG, DR. KALM IS SUDDENLY ACCOSTED BY TWO MEN....

HELLO, VON KALM, WHY DO YOU HURRY SO?

YES...HAVE YOU NO TIME FOR A COUNTRYMAN?

THE DRACHAM!! THE SECRET POLICE!

YOU SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER THAN TO HAVE ESCAPED!



AH! THE STATUE OF LIBERTY...FREE-DOM! I WONDER IF THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA REALIZE HOW FORTUNATE THEY ARE!



PFAUGH! I'M IN AMERICA NOW. AXTRON CAN- NOT TOUCH ME HERE!

CORRECT! BUT YOU FORGET YOUR DAUGHTER!



I AM GLAD TO INFORM YOU THAT SHE ALSO ESCAPED... AND WILL ARRIVE ON THE NEXT BOAT!

AND WE ARE GLAD TO INFORM YOU THAT SHE WAS CAPTURED!



CAPTURED!



AT DR. VON KALM'S APARTMENT,
THE NEXT MORNING...



SADLY VON KALM SHUTS THE DOOR...
... BUT AS HE TURNS....



SEVERAL
HOURS
LATER...
VON
KALM
AWAKES
TO FIND
HIMSELF
UNDER-
GROUND IN
WILDWOOD
CEMETERY



DURING THE SEVERAL WEEKS THAT FOLLOW, THE WORLD HEARS ONLY THAT DR. PRINCE VON KALM HAS RETURNED TO HIS NATIVE LAND

HIGH IN THE SNOW-CAPPED MOUNTAINS OF SLAVIA, COMPLETE WITH PRIVATE AIR-FIELD, LIES IGORHAVEN... ANCIENT FORTRESS USED AS A RETREAT BY KARL AXTRÖL HIMSELF.... IT IS SNOWING AS A SMALL PARTY CLIMBS THE STONE STEPS TO THE MAIN HALL...



I HAVE RETURNED OF MY FREE WILL, AXTRÖL... RELEASE MY DAUGHTER... BRING HER TO ME!

OF COURSE! GUARD! SEND HER IN!



FATHER!

MAGDA MY DEAR!! YOU ARE SAFE NOW!! YOU WILL LEAVE FOR AMERICA AT ONCE!

HOW TOUCHING! GUARD! AS SOON AS THEIR TEARS DRY, PLACE THEM IN SEPARATE CELLS!



NO! YOU SAID... YOUR WORD AS A STATESMAN... HAVE YOU NO HONOR?

HONOR, MY FRIEND, IS AN INVENTION OF THE WEAK TO KEEP US STRONG MEN FROM GAINING OUR ENDS!



MADLY PROTESTING, VON KALM IS HURLED INTO A DARK DUNGEON...

I WILL LET YOU LIVE... ONLY AS LONG AS YOU WRITE PROPAGANDA FOR ME! THINK IT OVER!



ONCE ALONE, THE PRISONER SETS TO WORK ON A SMALL STONE IN THE WALL....

IF MY CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT, THIS SHOULD LEAD TO HER CELL!



AT LAST.... ANOTHER ROOM!



AXTRÖL !!

HA! HA! HA! HA! THIS IS A GOOD JOKE! YOU HAVE DUG YOUR WAY INTO MY STUDY! GUARD!



BACK IN HIS CELL, HE DAUNTLESSLY
SETS TO WORK AGAIN....



CURSE MY
LUCK
FAILED AGAIN!

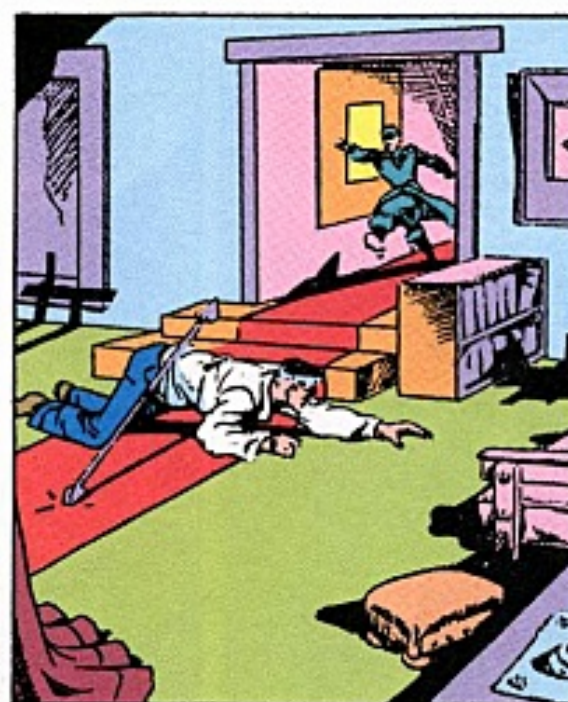


HEY, YOU!!

EXCUSE ME, PAL.
I NEED THIS MORE THAN
YOU DO...RIGHT NOW!



HALT
I SAY!



HAL - GAAAA!



A MOMENT LATER...



MAGDA!
I.....

GET OUT OF
MY ROOM,
IMPOSTER! YOU
ARE NOT MY REAL
FATHER! IT IS
ANOTHER AXTROL
TRICK!



THIS IS PROBABLY
FALSE TOO!!...I
KNEW IT WAS A
TRICK WHEN I
NOTICED YOU HAD
NO MOLE ON
YOUR CHEEK! MY
FATHER HAS!

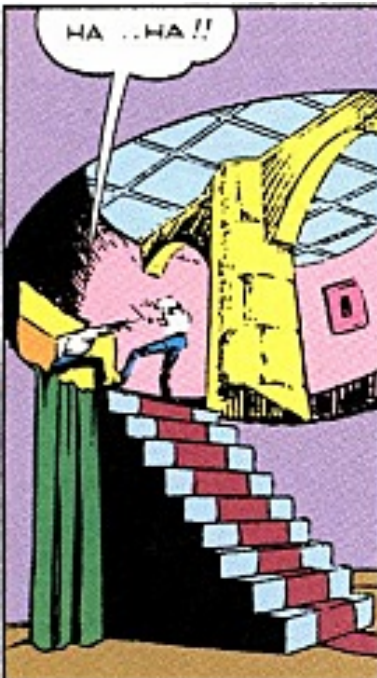
HEY!! LET GO
OF MY BEARD!
IT TOOK ME
WEEKS TO
GROW IT!!
OUCH!



YOU'RE RIGHT...I'M
REALLY THE
SPIRIT! YOUR
FATHER IS STILL IN
AMERICA...SAFE!!
MOGDUSZ....
THAT'S THE PASS-
WORD HE GAVE ME!

THEN YOU
TELL THE
TRUTH....
THAT IS HIS
PET NAME
FOR ME...
I WILL DO
AS YOU
SAY!





FLASH: AN UNIDENTIFIED PLANE OF FOREIGN DESIGN CRASHED INTO THE SEA OFF THE NEW JERSEY COAST THIS MORNING, AFTER ITS TWO PILOTS HAD BAILED OUT....
....CLICK....

I SAY, CAPTAIN, WHAT'S THE POST-MARK ON THAT PACKAGE WE RECEIVED?

IT'S NEW JERSEY! THAT MEANS....WHO-EVER WAS IN THAT PLANE SENT US THE FAMOUS **W.D. DOCUMENT!!** I WONDER WHO WOULD DARE....

ONLY ONE I CAN THINK OF IS, **THE SPIRIT!**

BACK AT WILDWOOD AT LAST....

SPIRIT! HOW CAN WE EVER THANK YOU....

BY FORGETTING IT! WHERE'S EBONY?

HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO CAPTURE THOSE DRACH-AM AGENTS...

AT THAT MOMENT...A BUSY WHARF.

YO' IS UNDAH ARREST! YO' IS **SPIES!**

HA!! COME, AXEL...THE LITTLE PIG IS UNARMED....
RUN FOR IT!!

GOLLY...AH GOTTA DO SUMTHIN' QUICK !!

IN TEN MINUTES.....

HEY! WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE?



THESE MEN ARE SPIES

GO'WAY!



BUT, OFFICER... I TELL YOU...

QUIET! THOSE PAPERS IN YOUR POCKET SAY ALL I CARE TO HEAR!



...YASSUH, MIST' SPIRIT BOSS... AN' COMMISSIONER DOLAN SAY TO ME, "EBONY, YO'AH TO BE COMMEMDED"! IS DAT GOOD?

YES, EBONY.... VERY GOOD!! HA! HA! HA!!